

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A method for binding cells, comprising:  
providing said cells;  
contacting said cells with antibody 97A6, which is produced by the hybridoma on deposit as No. DSM ACC 2297, to produce a cell-antibody complex;  
separating the cell-antibody complex from unbound cells and/or unbound antibody; and  
detecting a level of the cell-antibody complex,  
wherein said cells are selected from the group consisting of basophils, and mast cells,  
~~precursor cells of basophils, and precursor cells of mast cells.~~
- 2.-3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, comprising the further step of quantifying said cell-antibody complex.
- 5-8. (Canceled)
9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of determining the extent to which basophils are activated.
10. (Currently amended) The method of Claim [[2]] 1, wherein the antibody is joined to a marker.
11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the antibody is joined to a fluorescent marker.
12. (Currently amended) The method of Claim [[2]] 1, wherein detection of cell-antibody complex is accomplished by way of immunological detection methods, ~~such as~~ ELISA or FACS analysis.
13. (Currently amended) The method of Claim [[2]] 1, further comprising the step of detecting activated basophils.
14. (Original) The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of determining the extent to which basophils are activated.
- 15-21. (Canceled)

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22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said cells are provided as being contained within a patient sample, wherein said patient sample is selected from the group consisting of tissue biopsies, bone marrow biopsies, and blood samples.